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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/501,283	06/05/2006	Mario Mainetti	UDL1p011	5687
28875	7590	09/17/2009		
Zilka-Kotab, PC P.O. BOX 721120 SAN JOSE, CA 95172-1120			EXAMINER HECKERT, JASON MARK	
			ART UNIT 1792	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 09/17/2009	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/501,283

**Applicant(s)**

MAINETTI, MARIO

**Examiner**

JASON HECKERT

**Art Unit**

1792

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 17-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 17-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/55/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Specification***

1. Examiner encourages the applicant to reread the specification, as there are many small typographical errors present. The claims also contain typographical errors. For example, claims 18 reads —one said hanger—but should claim “one of said hangers”. Please revise the specification and claims such that there are no typographical and syntax errors.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

3. Claim 17, 21-23, 25-28 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Green, II et al (Green). Green discloses a method of removing adhesive labels from articles comprising a loading station 14 for transporting the article toward at least one

washing station 16, a washing station (16) with rotary nozzles that deliver pressurized and heated solvent to strip a label from the article and a device for reclamation of the stripping solution (step 72, col 5 line 4-56, col 7 line 55-col 8 line 5), a first drying apparatus 18(1), and a second drying apparatus 18(2) located in close proximity to an unloading station (figure 1). A conveyor 28 supports the articles. As seen from the figure 2B, the device is elongate. Green does not disclose cleaning hangers, however the device as disclosed reads on the structures claimed in the instant application. Furthermore, the object cleaned is considered to be the intended use of the apparatus. The manner in which an apparatus operates is not germane to the issue of patentability of the apparatus itself. *Ex parte Wikdahl* 10 USPQ 2d 1546, 1548 (BPAI 1989); *Ex parte McCullough* 7 USPQ 2d 1889, 1891 (BPAI 1988); *In re Finsterwalder* 168 USPQ 530 (CCPA 1971); *In re Casey* 152 USPQ 235, 238 (CCPA 1967). Furthermore, apparatus claims cover what a device is, not what a device does. *Hewlett-Packard Co. v. Bausch & Lomb Inc.* 15 USPQ 2d 1525 (Fed. Cir. 1990); *Demaco Corp. v. F. Von Langsdorf Licensing Ltd.* 7 USPQ 2d 1222, 1224-1225 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 18-20, 24 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Green in view of Blattner et al. As evident from the disclosure of Green, a method and

apparatus for cleaning articles comprising a conveying means, solvent spray, and drying are known in the prior art. However, Green does not disclose a conveying means that utilize a rotatable shaft with a helical groove. However, such a shaft, often called a screw or auger, is known in the art for specifically transporting hangers. Blattner shows a device for transporting hangers comprising a loading device 6 (figure 2) which comprises a rotatable shaft with a respective helical groove for engaging the hook of at least one hanger, wherein the rotation of the shaft moves the hangers towards a second conveying mechanism 1. There is a groove free portion 13 prior to the second conveying mechanism. Figure three shows that the depth and pitch of the groove can be altered in the loading device. Merely changing the direction of rotation is known to alter the direction of transfer with screw-like conveyers. Thus claim 24 does not further define structure over the prior art. It would have been obvious at the time of invention, and modify Green to include the loading device of Blattner, in order to transfer and convey hangers. Green even states that many loading mechanism are known in the art and can be used with his label stripping device (Green, col 3 lines 40-45).

6. Claims 29-31 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Green in view of Matkovich. Green does not disclose a rotatable support for hangers, or a locking means. Matkovich discloses locking means 24 and 25 that retain a hanger on a conveyor. Matkovich also discloses rotary elements 5 that rotate the hangers to face different positions. It would have been obvious at the time of the invention to modify Green and include the rotary mechanism and locking mechanism of Matkovich, in order to secure the garment hanger and change its direction or position.

***Conclusion***

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
8. 4,322,252 to Plumb - discloses label removing means
9. 2001/0042375 to Jacobson – discloses conveyor for garment hangers
10. 4,354,594 to Galloway - discloses conveyor for garment hangers
11. 2005/0016820 to Beyer – discloses conveyor for transporting garment hangers
12. 2003/0136804 to Gouldson – discloses automatic means for handling hangers
13. 2003/0019891 to Hutterly – discloses means for handling hangers
14. 6185831 to Yang – discloses means for rotating hangers

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JASON HECKERT whose telephone number is (571)272-2702. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. to Friday, 9:00 - 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr can be reached on (571)272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michael Barr/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art  
Unit 1792

JMH